

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An IP telephone apparatus having a plurality of types of calling functions including a telephone calling function for telecommunicating via a telephone network and a network calling function for telecommunicating via a computer network,
5 the IP telephone apparatus comprising:

a calling function detection unit configured to detect which calling function of the telephone calling function and the network calling function is selected; and

10 a calling function notification unit that notifies a user that at least one of general telephone using the telephone calling function and network telephone using the network calling function is being in operation according to a detection result of the calling function detection unit.

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2. The IP telephone apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein, when a calling request is being made, the calling function detection unit detects which calling function is selected on the basis of the presence or absence of a selection
20 command for selecting the network calling function; and
when an incoming call is made, the calling function detection unit detects which calling function is selected on the basis of the presence or absence of an access signal from the computer network.

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3. The IP telephone apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the calling function notification unit notifies
the user that at least one of the general telephone and the
network telephone is being in operation by display.

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4. The IP telephone apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the calling function notification unit notifies
the user that at least one of the general telephone and the
network telephone is being in operation by sound.

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5. The IP telephone apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the calling function notification unit has a
plurality of different notification manners;

the calling function notification unit uses one of the
15 plurality of different notification manners when a calling
request is being made; and

the calling function notification unit uses the other
of the plurality of different notification manners when a
telephone conversation is being conducted.

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6. The IP telephone apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the calling function notification unit includes
a first display unit and a second display unit;
the first display unit notifies the user that the network
25 telephone is being in operation; and

the second display unit notifies the user that the general telephone is being operation.

7. The IP telephone apparatus as claimed in claim 6,
5 wherein the first and second display units are implemented as a common liquid crystal display having backlights;

the first display unit drives one of the backlights to emit light in a first lighting color; and

the second display unit drives the other of the backlights 10 to emit light in a second lighting color.

8. The IP telephone apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a slave; and

15 a main unit including a slave connection unit connected to the slave;

wherein

the calling function detection unit notifies the slave that one of the general telephone and the network telephone 20 is being in operation through the slave connection unit.

9. The IP telephone apparatus as claimed in claim 8,

wherein the slave includes a third display unit and a fourth display unit;

25 the third display unit notifies the user that the network

telephone is being in operation; and
the fourth display unit notifies the user that the general
telephone is being in operation.

5 10. The IP telephone apparatus as claimed in claim 9,
wherein the third and fourth display units are implemented
as a common liquid crystal display having backlights;
the third display unit drives one of the backlights to
emit light in a third lighting color; and
10 the fourth display unit drives the other of the backlights
to emit light in a fourth lighting color.

11. The IP telephone apparatus as claimed in claim 8,
wherein the calling function notification unit notifies
15 both the main unit and the slave.

12. The IP telephone apparatus as claimed in claim 8,
wherein, when one of the main unit and the slave is being
operated with one of the general telephone and the network
20 telephone, the other of the main unit and the slave can be operated
with the other of the general telephone and the network
telephone.

13. An IP telephone system comprising:
25 an IP telephone apparatus having a plurality of types

of calling functions including a telephone calling function for telecommunicating via a telephone network and a network calling function for telecommunicating via a computer network; and

5 a computer connected between the IP telephone apparatus and the computer network;

 wherein the IP telephone apparatus includes:

 a calling function detection unit configured to detect which calling function of the telephone calling function and the network calling function is selected;
10 and

 a calling function notification unit that notifies a user that at least one of general telephone using the telephone calling function and network telephone using the network calling function is being in operation according to a detection result of the calling function detection unit.

14. The IP telephone system as claimed in claim 13,

20 wherein, when a calling request is being made, the calling function detection unit detects which calling function is selected on the basis of the presence or absence of a selection command for selecting the network calling function; and

25 when an incoming call is made, the calling function detection unit detects which calling function is selected on

the basis of the presence or absence of an access signal from the computer network.

15. The IP telephone system as claimed in claim 13,
5 wherein the calling function notification unit notifies the user that at least one of the general telephone and the network telephone is being in operation by display.

16. The IP telephone system as claimed in claim 13,
10 wherein the calling function notification unit notifies the user that at least one of the general telephone and the network telephone is being in operation by sound.

17. The IP telephone system as claimed in claim 13,
15 wherein the calling function notification unit has a plurality of different notification manners;
the calling function notification unit uses one of the plurality of different notification manners when a calling request is being made; and
20 the calling function notification unit uses the other of the plurality of different notification manners when a telephone conversation is being conducted.

18. The IP telephone system as claimed in claim 13,
25 wherein the calling function notification unit includes

a first display unit and a second display unit;
the first display unit notifies the user that the network
telephone is being in operation; and
the second display unit notifies the user that the general
5 telephone is being operation.

19. A method of operating an IP telephone apparatus having
a plurality of types of calling functions including a telephone
calling function for telecommunicating via a telephone network
10 and a network calling function for telecommunicating via a
computer network, the method comprising:

detecting which calling function of the telephone calling
function and the network calling function is selected; and
notifying a user that at least one of general telephone
15 using the telephone calling function and network telephone using
the network calling function is being in operation according
to a result of the detecting step.